

Region 9 Talking Points Gold King Mine Spill

- EPA's deployment to the Navajo Nation following the August 5 Gold King spill was extensive. Region 9 alone deployed well over 30 personnel, including having personnel in the EPA Area Command Post in Colorado, Incident Command Post in Farmington, New Mexico, the Navajo Nation Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Window Rock. Region 9 also conducted extensive community outreach, reaching about 1100 community members at nine public meetings over 10 days).
- As a part of the Gold King Mine response, EPA provided funding for over one million gallons of livestock and agricultural water and over 9,000 bales of hay to Navajo communities along the San Juan River.
- EPA started sampling on Navajo on August 8, and had up to 11 sampling stations on Navajo Nation during the Response, and is continuing to sample at five stations now. Based on that data, water and sediment have returned to pre-event conditions by mid-August.
- On Oct. 16, the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency determined that the San Juan River water was safe for irrigation and livestock.
- EPA has committed to a long term monitoring plan for the Gold King Mine Spill following the release; the Navajo Nation submitted comments on EPA's long-term monitoring plan on Oct. 8.
- On Oct. 15, Region 9 Regional Administrator Jared Blumenfeld and a team of EPA senior managers held a one-day meeting with the Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye and his executive team to chart the path forward in the coming year on multiple topics of mutual interest: the Clean Power Plan, abandoned uranium mines, and the long-term monitoring plan for the San Juan River as well as other issues related to spill response and recovery.